United Nations E/AC.51/2004/1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 March 2004

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fourth session
Organizational session, 1 June 2004
Substantive session, 7 June to 2 July 2004
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Programme questions:
   (a) Programme planning;
   (b) Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007;
   (c) Evaluation.
4. Coordination questions:
   (a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;
   (b) New Partnership for Africa's Development.
5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit.
6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate.
7. Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session.
8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination reaffirmed the decision made at its twenty-fourth session that the post of its Chairman, as well as the other posts on the Bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups in the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and the Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States.

At its forty-fourth session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of African States, in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman, and the Rapporteur from the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year, namely the Group of Asian States.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session, together with the list of documentation requested.

In its resolution 58/268, the Assembly took note of the provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Committee. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee. In particular, it may be noted that the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, decided that the Committee would no longer consider the budget outline. Accordingly, that question has been removed from the provisional agenda of the Committee.

In accordance with paragraph 6 of the annex to Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee, which shall report thereon to the Council and the Assembly. In that connection, the Committee will select, under agenda item 2, the JIU report(s) that will be considered by the Committee at its forty-fourth session under agenda item 6.

Pursuant to Assembly resolutions 53/207 and 54/236, and decision 54/474 attention is drawn to Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2000/8, containing the approved Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the status of preparation of documentation for the session (E/AC.51/2004/L.1)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work for the session (E/AC.51/2004/L.2)

Note by the Secretariat containing a list of JIU reports (E/AC.51/2004/L.3)

Note by the Secretariat on the current notional costs of documentation and interpretation services (E/AC.51/2004/L.4)

3. Programme questions

(a) Programme planning

(i) Priority-setting

In its resolution 58/268, the Assembly reaffirmed the relevant paragraphs of its resolution 55/231 and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-ninth session, through the Committee, a report on priority-setting.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/__)

(ii) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2002-2003

Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations and Rules provides that:

> "The Secretary-General shall monitor accomplishments, as measured by the delivery of outputs scheduled in the approved programme budget, through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period".

In its resolution 58/269, the Assembly emphasized the need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation system and, in this regard, urged the Secretary-General to improve the format and timing of programme performance and evaluation reports.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General (A/59/__)

(b) Proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007

In its resolution 58/269, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare, on a trial basis, for submission to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session, a strategic framework to replace the current four year medium-term plan, which would comprise in one document:

(a) Part one: a plan outline, reflecting the longer-term objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part two: a biennial programme plan, to cover two years.

The Assembly affirmed that the strategic framework shall constitute the principal policy directive of the United Nations and shall serve as the basis for programme planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. Approval of the strategic framework, in particular the biennial programme plan, by the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session would preclude review by the Committee at its forty-fifth session of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 unless

differences arise between the biennial programme plan and the programmatic aspects of the proposed programme budget as a result of new and/or revised mandates subsequent to the adoption of the plan. In the event that such differences arise, the General Assembly, in its resolution 58/269, has requested the Secretary-General to include, in the introduction to the budget fascicles, information on the new and/or revised mandates approved by the General Assembly subsequent to the adoption of the biennial programme plan.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007 (A/59/6)

(c) Evaluation

(i) Strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives

In accordance with regulation 7.4 of the Regulations and Rules, the Committee will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings concerning programme design, delivery and policy directives. In this regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the relevant sections of Assembly resolutions 36/228 B, 37/234, 38/227 A and B, 42/215, 43/219, 44/194, 45/253 and 55/234, section III.

In its resolution 58/269, the Assembly invited the Committee to submit at its forty-fourth session proposals on enhancing its role in monitoring and evaluation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OIOS on strengthening the role of evaluation and the application of evaluation findings concerning programme design, delivery and policy directives (A/59/__)

(ii) Proposed evaluation themes

At its forty-third session, the Committee decided to defer to its forty-fourth session the selection of a topic for thematic evaluation for submission to the Committee at its forty-fifth session which would subsequently be reviewed for its usefulness at its forty-sixth session.

The Committee also decided to request OIOS to further develop topics by elaborating the precise and comprehensive context, objective, scope, methodology and intended utilization of the findings of proposals for a pilot evaluation project.

In its resolution 58/268, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee on evaluation, as contained in chapter III, section C, of its report (A/58/16).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OIOS on proposed evaluation themes (E/AC.51/2004/2)

(iii) In-depth evaluation

In accordance with Assembly resolution 57/282, the Committee will undertake an in-depth evaluation of public administration, finance and development at its forty-fourth session, and of human settlements at its forty-fifth session.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OIOS on the in-depth evaluation of public administration, finance and development (E/AC.51/2004/3)

(iv) Triennial review

At its forty-fourth session, the Committee will undertake a triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the evaluation of sustainable development and on the in-depth evaluation of the population programme.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the evaluation of sustainable development (E/AC.51/2004/4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of OIOS on the triennial review of the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee at its forty-first session on the evaluation of the population programme (E/AC.51/2004/5)

4. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) for 2003.

In paragraph 578 of its report (A/58/16), the Committee requested that future annual overview reports be results-oriented reports, incorporating, among other things, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and progress made towards their accomplishment. The Committee recommended that CEB facilitate the exchange of information on practices in measuring programme performance and results, in measuring productivity in service functions and in collaborating on conference management. The Committee recommended that CEB play a role in better coordinating the analysis of the problems of the countries invoking Article 50 of the Charter, and in the development of new methodologies to identify the damage to affected States and new mechanisms to determine the appropriate compensation for them. It also recommended that CEB include, in the part of its annul report devoted to inter-agency cooperation in the area of management, information on coordination and cooperation in the fields of human resources and finances.

In paragraph 602 of its report (A/58/16), the Committee emphasized the continuing importance of the role of CEB in its system-wide coordination functions with respect to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and stressed the need for the Board to keep under regular review the issue of inter-agency coordination on NEPAD.

In its resolution 58/268, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee on the work of its forty-third session regarding the annual overview report of CEB for 2002 (E/2003/55).

It may also be recalled that in section V of its resolution 57/282, the Assembly stressed that inter-agency coordination in the field of management should be further strengthened and recommended that progress made in that regard be reflected in future reports of CEB.

Documentation

Annual overview report of CEB (E/2004/___)

(b) New Partnership for Africa's Development

In paragraph 603 of its report (A/58/16), the Committee recommended that, in order for it to continue monitoring work in progress in support of NEPAD, the Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee at its forty-fourth session on the further future engagement of the United Nations system with NEPAD.

In its resolution 58/268, the Assembly endorsed the conclusions and recommendations made by the Committee regarding NEPAD, as contained in chapter IV of its report (A/58/16).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2004/6)

5. Report(s) of the Joint Inspection Unit

Under this item, the Committee will consider the JIU report(s) selected by the Committee during its organizational meeting on 1 June 2004.

The attention of the Committee is drawn to Assembly resolution 42/218, in which the Assembly requested all bodies of the United Nations system to examine closely those reports of JIU which were within their respective areas of competence and to comment, as appropriate, on the recommendations contained therein. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to Assembly resolution 45/237.

In its resolution 48/221, the General Assembly, inter alia, invited JIU, in its future work programmes, to put more emphasis on inspection and evaluation to ensure optimum use of funds in order to enhance the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations system. It also requested JIU, when appropriate, to provide in its reports information on estimated financial implications or possible cost savings resulting from implementation of the recommendations formulated therein.

In the same resolution, the Assembly called upon JIU to follow up the implementation of its recommendations and include the relevant information regularly in its annual reports. The Assembly also invited JIU to maintain a close relationship with the Committee for Programme and Coordination, the International Civil Service Commission, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Board of Auditors, the Panel of External Auditors and organizations and bodies within the United Nations system in order to ensure greater and more cost-effective coordination of their respective activities for the promotion of management efficiency, greater accountability and transparency of the United Nations and other participating organizations, and requested the executive heads of the participating organizations to increase their efforts to make detailed and timely comments on JIU reports and to ensure that their governing bodies considered those reports.

Furthermore, in paragraph 5 (e) (iii) of its resolution 48/218 B, in which it established OIOS, the Assembly decided that the Board of Auditors and JIU should be provided with copies of all final reports produced by OIOS, as well as the comments of the Secretary-General thereon, and should provide the Assembly with their comments, as appropriate.

In its resolution 50/233, the Assembly requested JIU to continue to focus its reports on important priority items, identifying concrete managerial, administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations on precisely defined issues. It also requested JIU to issue its reports well in advance of meetings of the legislative organs of participating organizations so that the reports could be thoroughly and effectively utilized by these organs.

In resolution 54/16, the Assembly invited JIU, while preparing its annual programme of work, to give priority to the reports requested by the participating organizations. It also endorsed the system of follow-up to the reports of JIU (see A/54/841, annex I) and in that connection invited JIU to include in its annual reports approved recommendations that had not been implemented.

In its resolution 55/230, the Assembly stressed the importance of timely consideration of the reports of JIU by all participating organizations. In the same resolution, it invited JIU to continue to develop interaction with other United Nations oversight bodies and to intensify relations with the oversight bodies of other participating organizations with a view to better coordination and sharing best practices.

In resolution 56/245, the Assembly invited JIU to improve the presentation of the listing of potential reports for the following year and beyond by providing information on the source, including legislative basis, objectives, problems to be addressed, duration and expected date of completion, and to present such information before the final quarter of each year.

In resolution 57/284, the Assembly reiterated its request to the executive heads of participating organizations to observe fully the time frame for submitting their comments, as called for in article 11 subparagraphs 4 (d) and (e), of the statute of JIU.

The Assembly also reiterated its resolution 50/233 on the need for JIU to place emphasis in its work on well-defined and timely items of high priority, identifying concrete managerial administrative and programming questions aimed at providing the General Assembly and other legislative organs of participating organizations with practical and action-oriented recommendations.

The Assembly also stressed the need for JIU to pay special attention to the preparation of reports that are more evaluation oriented.

At its forty-third session, the Committee recommended that JIU be urged to make additional efforts to improve the presentation and formats of its reports in order to make them more focused, concise and reader-friendly, and also recommended that the General Assembly review those ongoing efforts during its fifty-eighth session.

In its resolution 58/268, the Assembly endorsed the conclusion and recommendations of the Committee on JIU, as contained in chapter V of its report (A/58/16).

Documentation

Report(s) of JIU

6. Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate

The Committee has been considering the item "Improving the working methods and procedures of the Committee for Programme and Coordination within the framework of its mandate" annually since its thirty-eighth session. At its forty-third session, the Committee again considered the item and decided to remain seized of the matter.

It may be recalled that the Assembly, in its resolution 57/282, requested the Committee to continue to observe its methods of governing the drafting and format of its reports, and encouraged the Committee to continue its discussions on improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness and continued relevance.

In paragraph 33 of its resolution 57/300, the Assembly reaffirmed the roles of the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in the intergovernmental consideration of the planning, programming and budgeting process. It also invited the Committee for Programme and Coordination to continue to improve its working methods.

In its resolution 58/269, the Assembly emphasized the importance of the intergovernmental nature of the Committee in discharging its functions. It also recalled operative paragraph 34 of its resolution 57/300, in which it had invited the Committee to continue to improve its working methods and to submit, at its forty-fourth session recommendations on improving its effectiveness.

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item

and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fifth session of the Committee (E/AC.51/2004/L.5)

8. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

The report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2004 and to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session.

Documentation

Draft report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session (E/AC.51/2004/L.6 and addenda)

Annex

Members of the Committee for Programme and Coordination for 2004

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	2005
Armenia	2005
Bahamas	2006
Benin	2005
Brazil	2005
Canada	2005
Central African Republic	2005
China	2004
Comoros	2006
Cuba	2005
Ethiopia	2004
France	2006
Gabon	2005
Germany	2005
India	2005
Indonesia	2005
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2005
Japan	2004
Mexico	2006
Monaco	2005
Nicaragua	2005
Nigeria	2004
Pakistan	2005
Republic of Korea	2004
Republic of Moldova	2005
Russian Federation	2006
South Africa	2005
Switzerland	2005
Tunisia	2004
Ukraine	2005
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United States of America	2006
Uruguay	2004
Zimbabwe	2006